

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 10 and 13-19 are in the case.

I. SPECIFICATION

The specification has been objected to as allegedly failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the subject matter of claims 2 and 7. In response, the specification has been amended to incorporate appropriate antecedent basis for those two claims.

The specification has been amended to include customary headings, including a brief description of the drawing. No new matter is entered.

Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is now respectfully requested.

II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 12 and 14 have been objected to for the reasons detailed on page 2 of the Action. This has been attended to in the claim amendments presented herewith, whereby the page numbers do not appear in the tables. Withdrawal of the objections is now respectfully requested.

III. THE 35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH, REJECTION

Claim 19 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the reasons detailed on page 3 of the Action. In response, claim 19 has been amended to conform with the language appearing in claim 16. Withdrawal of the outstanding 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. THE ANTICIPATION REJECTIONS

Numerous claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by the cited art. In view of the indication of allowability of claims 12-15, in order to expedite prosecution, the claims rejected as anticipated have been cancelled without prejudice and without conceding to the merit of any of the outstanding anticipation rejections. Withdrawal of the anticipation rejections is now respectfully requested.

V. DOUBLE PATENTING

Claims 1-11 and 16-19 stand rejected on obviousness-type double patenting grounds as allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-9 and 15-18 of co-pending application Serial No. 10/697,973. Since the present application has been amended so as to be directed to the subject matter of claims 12-15, it is believed that the outstanding double patenting rejection has been rendered moot since the subject matter of claims 12-15 is not rejected on obviousness-type double patenting grounds. Withdrawal of the outstanding double patenting rejection is accordingly respectfully requested.

VI. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 12-15 have been indicated to be allowable. In view of this indication, and in order to expedite prosecution of this case to a favorable conclusion, the claims have been amended so as to be directed to the subject matter of claims 12-15. The subject matter cancelled in the present amendment has been removed without prejudice to

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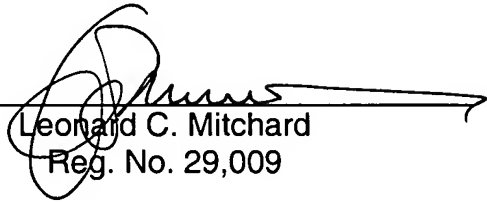
pursuing that subject matter in a separate continuing application. Allowance of the claims as presently amended is respectfully requested.

Favorable action on this application is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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